

Amendments to the Claims:

This following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A method for verifying an optical connection, said method comprising:
generating an optical verification signal, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors, wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and
transmitting said optical verification signal via a first end of a cord.
2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
[receiving said data-carrying optical signal via a second end of said cord;]
receiving said optical verification signal via [**said**] a second end of said cord; and
based on said received optical verification signal, decoding said connection identifier to verify a connection.
3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
transmitting a data-carrying optical signal into said first end of said cord; and
receiving said data-carrying optical signal via said second end of said cord.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 further comprising combining said data-carrying optical signal and said optical verification signal for transmission into a common fiber within said cord.
5. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said data-carrying optical signal and said optical verification signal are transmitted via distinct fibers within said cord.
6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said optical verification signal comprises an RGB signal.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said optical verification signal comprises a CMY signal.

8. (currently amended) A method for verifying an optical connection, said method comprising:

receiving an optical verification signal via a first end of [said] a cord, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors, wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

based on said received optical verification signal, decoding said connection identifier to verify a connection.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving a data-carrying optical signal via a first end of a cord;

10. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said data-carrying optical signal and said optical verification signal are received via a common fiber of said cord.

11. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein said data-carrying optical signal and said optical verification signal are received via distinct fibers of said cord.

12. (original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

transmitting white light via said first end of said cord; and

wherein said optical verification signal comprises components of said white light that have been reflected from a second end of said cord.

13. (original) Apparatus for verifying an optical connection, said apparatus comprising:

a light generating block that generates an optical verification signal, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors, wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

a coupler that combines said optical verification signal with a data-carrying optical signal to form a combined signal to inject into a shared fiber.

14. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said optical verification signal comprises:

an RGB signal.

15. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said optical verification signal comprises:

a CMY signal.

16. (original) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said light generating block comprises:
a driver that generates electrical signals indicative of desired transmitted magnitudes of said distinct color signals.

17. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said light generating block further comprises:

an LED device that generates said plurality of signals in response to said electrical signals.

18. (original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said LED device comprises an edge LED device.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said light generating block further comprises a laser diode device.

20. (original) Apparatus for verifying an optical connection, said apparatus comprising:
a light generating block that generates an optical verification signal, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

a connector block that directs said optical verification signal into a first fiber of a cord and directs a data-carrying optical signal into a second fiber of said cord.

21. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said optical verification signal comprises:

an RGB signal.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said optical verification signal comprises:

a CMY signal.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said light generating block comprises:
a driver that generates electrical signals indicative of desired transmitted magnitudes of said distinct color signals.

24. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said light generating block further comprising:

an LED device that generates said plurality of signals in response to said electrical signals.

25. (original) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein said LED device comprises a surface LED device.

26. (original) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein said light generating block further comprises a laser diode device.

27. (original) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising:
a light detection block that receives said optical verification signal via a second end of said cord; and

a decoder block that, based on said received optical verification signal, decodes said connection identifier to verify a connection.

28. (currently amended) Apparatus for verifying an optical signal, said apparatus comprising:

a light detection block that receives an optical verification signal via a first end of [said] a cord, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

a decoder block that, based on said received optical verification signal, decodes a connection identifier to verify a connection.

29. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

a white light generation block that generates white light to be transmitted via said first end of said cord; and

wherein said optical verification signal comprises components of said white light that have been reflected from a second end of said cord.

30. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising:

a splitter that separates said optical verification signal from a data-carrying optical signal that shares a common fiber within said cord with said optical verification signal.

31. (original) The apparatus of claim 28 wherein said optical verification signal is received via a first fiber of said cord and a data-carrying optical signal travels via a second fiber of said cord.

32. (original) Apparatus for verifying an optical connection, said apparatus comprising:
means for generating an optical verification signal, said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors, wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

means for transmitting said optical verification signal via a first end of a cord.

33. (original) Apparatus for verifying an optical connection, said apparatus comprising:
means for receiving an optical verification signal via a first end of said cord said optical verification signal comprising a plurality of signals having distinct colors, wherein magnitudes of said distinct color signals encode a connection identifier; and

means for, based on said received optical verification signal, decoding said connection

identifier to verify a connection.